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16th March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Practice Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award

We are very pleased to confirm the details of the Silver DofE Expeditions which will take place as follows:

The Practice expedition will take place from 25th to 27th June. Students should arrive at Everett's Farm (IP24 5AR) from 17:30 on Thursday 25th where they will pitch their tents and have their evening meal before walking on Friday to Larchwood (Beachamwell), camping there and walking to our end point at school on Saturday. Cars are not permitted on the campsite and will need to be left at the gate although the students can be walked to the camping pitch by their adults.

The qualifying expedition will take place during physical activity week from 9th to 11th July. This is held in Huntingdon and students will be transported to and from the start and end points via a coach. Students should arrive at school on 9th July with their expedition bag and equipment between 08:30-08:45 (as per a normal school day). We hope to return around 5pm on 11th July but this will be communicated with you closer to the time. Students will be planning their own routes during the training sessions and will require 2 x OS explorer 1:250 000 map no. 225 between their group for after Easter to plan their routes.

Kit List

Students will have been given a kit list in their work booklets for the expedition. Students are encouraged to share the group equipment between them.

Items of particular importance are:

- Waterproof Walking boots/shoes
- Waterproofs (jacket- essential, trousers – weather dependant)
- Clothes for day 2 and 3 plus crocs/sliders
- Personal first aid kit
- Torch and whistle
- Refillable water bottle(s) to carry at least 2 litres
- Sunscreen/hat

Some items will be checked prior to leaving school on 9th.

Food and drink

Participants will need to bring their own food for their:

- Thursday evening meal (hot)
- Friday breakfast, lunch and an evening meal (hot);
- And Saturday breakfast (maybe hot) and lunch.
- Students will also need to bring snacks for both Friday and Saturday. Students are required to cook at least 1 hot meal each day.

Water will be available at the campsites.

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Pre-training

Students have attended some sessions at school with this practice being their main training and refresher. Aspects covered include:

- Navigation and route-planning
- Country code and hazards
- Packing a rucksack and kit care and
- First Aid

Expedition Requirements

Students should be familiar with the expedition requirements (which are in their workbooks). The practice expedition will be used to ensure that students are capable of walking safely, independently in the countryside where supervision will be unaccompanied and self-sufficient. In practice this means that groups will walk several miles through the countryside, across roads and through towns without a member of staff. We track the groups from a distance on foot and with a Tracki (small device per group) and will arrange to meet them at 'checkpoints' along their route at specified times.

Students should re-read their expedition booklets to ensure they are familiar with all aspects covered as this will enhance their understanding and safety throughout the days. They must bring this booklet with them.

All participants will be continuously assessed over the course of the practice and qualifying expeditions and will need to demonstrate their competence and attitude in all skills learnt and covered.

Medication, Medical Conditions and Injuries

Participants will need to be in good health and able to undertake two days of physical activity including walking a long distance carrying a heavy rucksack. Students are encouraged to walk with their backpacks prior to the expeditions to gain fitness and preparedness. Please inform us via the consent form (or nearer to the expedition by email) of any medication currently being taken, medical conditions of which we should be aware of or relevant injuries. Participants are responsible for bringing their own medication in their personal first aid kits. In the unlikely event of an incident on the Expedition, parents will be contacted immediately. If you do urgently need to contact them, please contact myself first on the school trip mobile number which is 07510 382779.

There will be an initial deposit of £20 payable by 1st May to cover for costs of transport and campsite fee's. There may be a further cost of £10 however this is dependent on us receiving a grant.

Please complete and return the expedition consent and information forms by Thursday 22nd May 2026.

Should you have any questions about the DofE generally or specific to the expedition please do get in touch. My email is Rachel.Wells@atrust.org.uk

Kind regards

R Wells

Rachel Wells
Duke of Edinburgh Award Manager